

Message Text

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PAGE 01 KARACH 01385 080718Z

16

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-03 H-02 IGA-01 PA-01 PRS-01 /086 W

----- 085474

R 080530Z JUL 75

FM AMCONSUL KARACHI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9000

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMCONSUL LAHORE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE KARACHI 1385

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, ELAB, PINS, PORS, PK

SUBJECT: BANK EMPLOYEES' STRIKE ENDS

REF: A) KARACHI 1309 B) KARACHI 1359

BEGIN SUMMARY: OUR CONTACTS IN THE BANKING COMMUNITY CONFIRM NEWSPAPER REPORTS THAT ALL BANK EMPLOYEES EXCEPT THOSE UNDER ARREST HAVE RETURNED TO WORK AND THAT BANKING BUSINESS HAS RETURNED TO NORMAL IN KARACHI AND ELSEWHERE. END SUMMARY.

1. STRONG ACTION BY GOP LAST WEEK IN ARRESTING AN ESTIMATED 700 BANK EMPLOYEE UNION LEADERS AND OTHER STRIKERS AND THE THREAT OF DISMISSAL OF ALL BANK EMPLOYEES WHO FAILED TO APPEAR FOR WORK AFTER JULY 3 HAS NOW EFFECTIVELY BROKEN THE BANK EMPLOYEES' STRIKE WHICH DISRUPTED BANK BUSINESS IN KARACHI FOR OVER A WEEK. ALTHOUGH THE STRIKE WAS CALLED OFF UNCONDITIONALLY, IT SEEMS VERY LIKELY THAT SOME CONCESSIONS WILL BE MADE TO MEET THE OBJECTIONS OF BANK EMPLOYEES TO THE DECISIONS OF THE WAGE COMMISSION REPORT.

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PAGE 02 KARACH 01385 080718Z

2. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT HAS URGED THE PROVINCIAL AUTHORITIES TO

WITHDRAW CHARGES AGAINST STRIKERS, EXCEPTING THOSE HELD FOR
CRIMINAL ACTIVITIES. IN THE LATTER CATEGORY ARE SEVERAL MAJOR
UNION LEADERS, REPORTEDLY INCLUDING SOME WHO WENT TO
ISLAMABAD TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE LABOR MINISTER (REF B).
TIGER

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Message Attributes

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